

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIEOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/DECISION RECORD
PacifiCorp R\W Renewal Application, OR 18091
CE# OR117-08-05

A. Proposed Action: PacifiCorp (PP&L) has applied for a right-of-way (r\w) renewal for continued use of the existing utility line facility located in Section 9, T. 35 S., R. 6 W., Willamette Meridian. The facility is an overhead 12.0 KV electrical distribution line in the vicinity of BLM's Sprague Seed Orchard. The facility was first authorized December 21, 1977. The applicant has applied for a 30 year renewal in order to meet public demands for electrical service.

B. Location/Land Use Allocation: The existing overhead line is located on public land along the perimeter of BLM's Sprague Seed Orchard in Josephine County. The power line is consistent with BLM's use of the land as a seed orchard. The r\w length is listed as 8,448 feet in the application. The current grant expires December 21, 2007.

C. Need / Rationale for the Proposed Action: The existing facility was authorized in the past by BLM and has been in use for many years. The current use is in conformance with the original application. There have been no changes to the facility from the past. It is standard procedure for BLM to approve right-of-way renewals where the activity is consistent with past practices and local comprehensive plans. (RMP 82)

Project Design Features

The Permit will be issued with the following stipulations:

Botany – All ground disturbing/yarding equipment used on BLM lands must be washed prior to entering BLM lands to remove any dirt or vegetation that may harbor noxious weed seeds.

D. Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following plans:

- (1) *Final EIS and Record of Decision for the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP)* (June 1995).
- (2) *Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (February 1994).
- (3) *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its attachment A entitled the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (NFP)*(April 1994).

- (4) *Final Supplemental EIS for Amendments to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (March 2000), and the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (January 2001)
- (5) *Medford District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment* (April 1998).
- (6) *Final Supplemental EIS for Management of Port-Orford Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (December 2003)

E. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department Manual 516 DM 11, Appendix 11.9, Section E Realty (16)--Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.

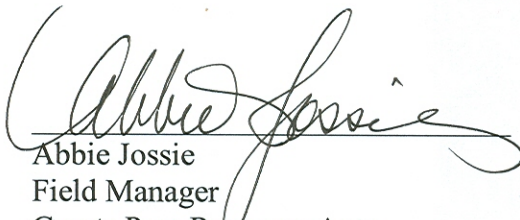
The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if extraordinary circumstances exist that would require further environmental analysis and documentation (516 DM 2, Appendix 2). None have been identified (see attached).

 10/25/07
NEPA Reviewer / Date

/s/ Joe Hoppe 10/25/07
Preparer / Date

F. Decision

I have reviewed this CE, plan conformance, and NEPA compliance review and have determined the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the action as described above in the Proposed Action.


Abbie Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

10-25-07
Date

NEPA COMPLIANCE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW
PacifiCorp R\W Renewal Application, OR 18091
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The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires the review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional analysis and environmental documentation.

1) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

☐ Yes ☒ **No** Remarks: There are no changes to this action and no impacts are expected from renewal of the application.

2) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

☐ Yes ☒ **No** Remarks: As none of these resources are within the ROW, no impacts are expected.

3) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

☐ Yes ☒ **No** Remarks: Effects are not controversial and there are no conflicts on alternative use of resources.

4) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

☐ Yes ☒ **No** Remarks: No effects are expected. The project is within a highly managed seed orchard and no additional disturbance will occur.

5) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

☐ Yes ☒ **No** Remarks: This decision does not set a precedent for future actions. Any similar actions will be assessed regardless of this decision.

6) *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

☐ Yes ☒ **No** Remarks: No direct relationship to other actions will occur so no significant effects are expected.

7) *Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.*

☐ Yes ☒ **No** Remarks: There will be no impacts on National Register properties.

8) *Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.*

☐ Yes ☒ **No** Remarks: No impacts to listed species are expected.

9) *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

☐ Yes ☒ **No**

10) *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

☐ Yes ☒ **No**

11) *Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).*

☐ Yes ☒ **No**

12) *Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).*

☐ Yes ☒ **No**

Reviewers:

Conceen Francis 10/25/07
Silviculture, Vegetation Dynamics
& Port-Orford Cedar Date

Allymsgh 10/25/2007
Botany Date

Alia Brenn 10/23/07
Cultural Resources Date

Jon H. Bon 10/25/07
Fisheries Date

Joe Reef 10/23/07
Wildlife Date

Michael DeBlasi 10/23/07
Soils/Hydrology Date

J. M. Ki 10/23/07
Visual Resources / Recreation Date

James R. Roper 10/24/07
Engineering Date